THE MOTION PICTURE WORLD-NEWS AND GOSSIP OF **STUDIOS**

THE NEW MOVIES

By Robert E. Sherwood

New York for a brief visit after a long period of employment in Hollywood. As is the way of excursionists from the film capital, Mr Block devoted the major part of his time to intensive theatergoing.

We asked him for an opinion on the present condition of the New York

"The plays seem to be better than they were three years ago," he said, "but it seems to me that the acting has depreciated materially. Perhaps I feel this way because I have been spolled by my movie experience. I believe that the acting on the screen at present is superior to that which I have seen on the stage here in New York.

Coming, as it does, from one of Mr. Block's attainments, this announcement carries a considerable amount of

Mr. Block is no loyal native son of Hollywood. He is not merely putting up the average Californian's instinctive wall of defense against the criti- dise. cism, uttered or implied, of the New Yorker. He is, in fact, a New Yorker knowledge of the stage. Before entering the movies, some three years has been a director of the Theater Guild since its inception.

this subject, and his opinions are it is meant to be. worthy of attention.

It would be dangerous for us to them, and are not permitted to make comparisons between them and any phase of the cinematographic art.

However, we are safe in stating hat Mr. Block is right in so far as the movies themselves are concerned. —'A Doll's Acting before the camera has reached the kiddies.

They are working out a new style of pantomimic expression which is paola eleven won the game the day adding materially to the potential ele-they were this odd insignia—but, at adding materiany to the potential co-quence of the silent drama and re-ducing the need for subtitles to the desired minimum.

Charlie Chaplin. If there is any tragic comedian on Broadway who can equal him as an artist willing to leave the films flat and divert our patronage to those drahubert, Charles B. Dillingham the

et al. (Woods).

There are other less obvious instances. Theodore Kosloff is one. He learned the secret of rhythm from his

Those who have seen him in some fans.

Ramon Navarro, who has occupied important roles in Rex Ingram's two latest productions, is another movie actor in whom dramatic vigor is controlled by grace of movement and delicacy of expression. He, too, was a dancer before he invaded the realms of celluloid, although his training was of celluloid, although his training was

An exactly opposite example is provided by Wallace Beery, the Richard Coeur de Lion of 'Robin Hood" and the villain of many blood and thunder melodramas of the past.

Beery is a great hulk of a man, consulted him about the scenario. possessed of tremendous shoulders and arms and an extraordinarily forbid-ding countenance. His leer is evil enough to chill the stoutest heart. But these natural advantages, if such they can be called, would not amount to the market price of a ruble note if he did not also possess the ability to act.

For all his brute force he has a power of repression which enables him to keep the emotional throttle under casion demands

W. J. Ferguson, who was in the cast "Our American Cousin" as it was pre-

Edward Connelly-who are better in the films than they ever were on the scope than they enjoyed in the the- has voluntarily vacated.

plays which, in our estimation, deserve the title of "great."

While we are on the general subject of acting we might as well set forth

Werner Krauss and Conrad Veidt in seen it at advance showings.

Ralph Block, who was in lypse." Richard Barthelmess in "Tol'able

David" and "Sonny." Emil Jannings in "Passion," "De-ception" and "The Loves of Pharaoh." Norry Pickford in "The Love Light," We iam Norris in "When Knight-ood Was in Flower."

George Fawcett in "Peter Ibbetson." Dorothy Gish in "Hearts of the

Paul Wegener in "The Golem." Gareth Hughes and May McAvoy in "Sentimental Tommy." Betty Compson and George Hacka-thorne in "The Little Minister."

Norma Talmadge in "The Eternal Flame.' Douglas MacLean in "Twenty-three

and a Half Hours' Leave." Leatrice Joy in "Manslaughter." Thomas Meighan in "The City of

Silent Men." Theodore Roberts and Agnes Ayres

in "Forbidden Fruit." Priscilla Dean in "Outside the Law."
Theodore Kosloff in "To Haye and to

Theda Bara in "A Fool There Was." Frank Keenan and Charles Ray in "The Coward."

William S. Hart in "Hell's Hinges." Dorothy Dalton in "Fool's Para-

In addition to these there are number of players who have never himself, and possessed of unusual gone wrong in any picture that we have seen. This list would include Douglas Fairbanks, Charlie Chaplin, Wallace Beery, Harold Lloyd, Jackie ago, he was a dramatic critic here, and Coogan, Pola Negri, Buster Keaton and Lillian Gish.

He is therefore qualified to talk on ing indorsement; but that is just what

The methods of movie exhibitors in exploiting pictures are indeed devious. Once we heard of a brilliant fellow ogree with him, as we are not supposed to know anything about the "mere speakies," as Merton Gill calls theater to be be being common the stage of his wedding ceremony on the stage of his theater to be be business for a phototheater to boom business for a photoplay entitled "Sacred and Profane Love." Another and more famous instance is that of an impresario who announced in the papers; "This Week

Acting before the camera may be a constantly getting better. It is constantly getting better. It is press Theater in Paola, Kan., preprogressing much faster than directions of the proprietor of the high progressing much faster than directions of the proprietor of the properties of the proprietor of the proprietor of the proprietor of There are a great many actors and actresses in the films to-day who can stand the test of comparison with the test of comparison with the dark of their uniforms advertising his current film attraction. These stand the test of comparison with the dark of their uniforms advertising his current film attraction. These best talent that the stage has to offer.

-'A Doll's House,' by Ibsen-Bring

It is not recorded whether the

Inspired by the success of "Grand-ma's Boy," he has completed two new ong comedies since then-"Dr. Jack." matic emporiums which are presided in five reels, and "Safety Last," in six. se parts very soon, probably before Thanksgiving.

Doug and Mary are also packing up, learned the secret of rhythm from his being on the verge of an excursion into experience with the Russian ballet darkest Mexico.

and he has applied it successfully to Doug may not do "Monsieur Beau- Then it assumes a rate of four visibilis performances before the camera. Caire as his next picture after all, but tors from Iowa who walked down at half constructs his characterizations may secure the services of John Barry- Hollywood street one night at half with the utmost care and expresses more for the role. It is not quite acrothem with his hands and his legs as battle enough to suit the Fairbanksian

Those who have seen that it have not considered the following properties of the famous Players—

I ohn S. Robertson will direct the famous Players—

Lasky Corporation and members of its next Barthelmess picture, "The Bright Sales force are about to foregather in Shawl," which is adapted from Herge-

ot nearly so extensive as that of ing the scenes for the Cosmopolitan picture. "Enemies of Women," has returned from abroad. The troupe included Lionel Barrymore, Alma Rubens, Pedro de Cordoba and Gareth Hughes.

Blanche Bates. As this picture was based on an Ibanez novel, the company paid a visit

> Moving picture beauty contests are nothing much to get excited about in inated is a trifle more liberal than this country, but in England they are some of its more enlightened neighbull a novelty; and on top of all its bors. other worries England has recently been in the throes of a competition to select the fairest maid of the realm Mile. Sore! Will Close and start her upon a career in the

galloping daguerreotypes, the emotional throttle under opening it only when the octhe Talmadge sisters. No fewer than from Paris, which includes Albert Lam80,000 young ladies submitted their bert and Louis Ravet terminate their arrangements of "I'll Build a Stairway

Fawcett is another. They are both which was presented to her with the Thursday evening. November 23, "Le THE VOICE OF THE PROVINCES. splendld on the screen. Then there is profound compliments of M. Paul Misanthrope"; Friday evening, November 23, "Le THE VOICE OF THE PROVINCES.

when Lincoln was assassinated.

We can name o hers—William Norweis, Frank Keenan, Robert Edeson and has been imported as a substitute for Rodolph Valentino. The Paramount Strairss Symphonic Poem

To Be Played at Capitol the American screen is Charles de Saturday evening, November 25, "L'Ad. tan Theater in Cleveland last Monthe films than they ever were on the people believe that judicious publicity stage. They find some quality in this will soon enable him to take the posinew medium which gives them greater tion which the temperamental Rodolph

have been laughing loudly ever since. bill.

efficient memory. They are: soon to be issued. It has been gen-Lon Chancy in "The Miracle Man." erously praised by those who have music of last week.

To Be Seen in Current Attractions on the Screen



wood," which is issued by the Arrow Film Corporation, is apparently going

olg wherever shown.

The title certainly sounds alluring -unless one has been to Hollywood. Then it assumes a rather du'l aspect. past 9 All the inhabitants stuck their heads out of their windows to inquire what the parade was for.

Fred Niblo is about to direct a screen version of James Forbes's play, erable success by Henry Miller and

Motion picture censorship was subto the corpulent Spaniard, and even jected to a sound beating in the late election in Massachusetts. Which proves that the venerable State in which Puritanism and blue laws origsome of its more enlightened neigh-

Engagement This Week

Mile. Cecile Sorel and the company so,000 young ladles submitted their photographs, and the affair was a nation" and who has been consistently illiainous ever since. Long is nothing under to look at, but he can generally outshine the pretty matinee idols who play opposite him.

It is curious that so many old actors, who have knocked about on the years, should find their metter in the stage in various capacities for many years, should find their metter in the imovies.

The works engagement under the director of the Shuberts at the Thirty-ninth Street Theater this week. For the final week two plays not included in the first week's repertoirs will be added. They will be brought to the United States by the Talmadges and will play the interest by the Talmadges and will play the part of Aggie, the little tough girl in wyears, should find their metter in the stage in various capacities for many years, should find their metter in the stage in various capacities for many years, should find their metter in the stage in various capacities for many years, should find their metter in the plendld on the screen. Then there is

ber 24. "Camille": Saturday matines, which was presented at the Metropoli- Institute of Musical Art Another European contribution to November 25, "Le Demi-Monde," and

To Be Played at Capitol

Richard Strause's symphonic poem, the spilar aspects and such as the glare of the footlights and the applause of the audience, are lacking.

This move may be successfu—and then again, it may not. Three years ago, when Mary Pickford departed from the Paramount fold, Mr. Zukor announced that he would replace her to the length of the photo-Last Sunday we listed the photo-with Mary Miles Minter. of this offering S. L. Rothafel will dis-lays which, in our estimation, deserve A number of irreverent bystanders pense with the rest of the usual musical

Michel Fokine's latest dance offering "Hungry Hearts," which, like "The will be continued by the ballet under of acting we might as well set torth those individual performances which stand out most clearly in our not too Goldwyn files for many months, is the Strand, as well as the incidental

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari."

Rodolph Valentino and Alice Terry

A film entitled "Night Life in Holly-lection from Verdis "Aids." played by "goods" into a ready market—then

Pictures of the Week

APOLLO—"One Exciting Night," directed by D. W. Griffith, with 'Carol Dempster and Henry Hull. ASTOR—"The Town That Forgot God," directed by Harry Mil-

CAMEO-"When the Desert Calls." with Violet Heming. CAPITOL—"Triffing Women," di-rected by Rex Ingram, with Ramon Navarro, Lewis Stone and Barbara LaMarr.

RITERION-"When Knighthood Was In Flower," directed by

Vignola, with Marion FORTY-FOURTH STREET-"Th Village Placksmith," directed by

LYRIC - Douglas Fairbanks in "Robin Hood," directed by Allan

RIALTO-"Ebb Tide," directed by George Melford, with Lila Lee, James Kirkwood, Noah Beery, Raymond Hatton, George Faw-cett and Jacqueline Logan.

RIVOLI-"The Pride of Palomar. directed by Frank Borzage, with Forrest Stanley and Marjorle

STRAND-Mary Pickford in "Tess of the Storm Country," directed by John S. Robertson.

the orchestra under the direction of Prederick Stahlberg and Emanuel Baer. The original plane trie-George Dilworth, Edgar Fairchild and Herbert Claire-will return to the Rivoli, the scene of their Broadway debut, for a

Guy Bolton in his "Polly Preferred."

viav. seems to have clung to the type of wilfully innocent chorus girl whom he immortalized in "Polly With a Past" in collaboration with George Middleton. Also a somewhat reminiscent theme of manufacturing a reputation seems to be followed, judging by the following extracts from the Cleveland Commercial:
Providing one can put up the ap-

pearance satisfactorily, there are big results from capitalization of one's personality and charm. There is a provise, however, to the proposition —be sure you get a live business man to handle the exploitation. This was effectively brought out

in "Polly Preferred," a comedy by Guy Bolton, presented for the first time on any stage at the Metropoli-Playing the game, obeying instrucsuccess finds you, in fact, demands

"Polly Preferred" concerns chorus girl—Pody Jamieson—who has lost her Job, presumably through the machinations of Joe Rutherford. a young broker, married, but inclined to break over the matrimonial traces, with Polly as the subject of his illicit affection. She spurns his offer of assistance.

In the Automat Polly meets Bob Cooley, a salesman, who is also among the "out-of-works." The idea comes to Cooley that he can capi-talize Polly's charm and personality, and proceeds to "incorporate" her as a movie star. He secures expenas a movie star. He secures expen-sive raiment for Polly, meets her in "fashion row" at the Biltmore, en-gages in high sounding conversation with her, where some financial men can hear their talk. The bait proves Jones, an artist, and Harold Nathan, an advertising man, agree to finance the project with Bob Cooley as business manager.

From that point things begin to go along till a love affair necessarily develops. Concerning the performance of the star t

Patricia Collinge, as Polly, injects a good proportion of "Polly-anna" into this role—honest, trust-ing and ever mindful of others' happiness. he enacts the part of the sweet-yet ahrewd-screen star cleverly, but at times we were inclined to look for more self-confi-dence in one who had reached the heights in film fame. But, by and large, her performance was de

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and certainly the lines themselves flash occasionally with a bit of humor above the stock variety; but, taken all in all, the production will have to be submitted to some ex-pert handling before it risks a pre-miere before the exacting New

fool born every minute, and of course the play goes about proving it through the medium of an enter-prising young man by the name of Free Farrell and an old manor, house within whose walls lurke the

possibility of traditional buried treasure. Fred conceives the brilliant idea of turning the old manor into a hotel to which he hopes to lure guests by holding out the the guests by holding out the hope that they may personally find this same fugitive treasure and claim it for their very own. He broadcasts the treasure idea in the newspapers, with the result that the hotel takes on a golden atmosphere and the guests come flocking to the large numbers. of her father by making a success

The choice of a cast in this farcical comedy is not a happy one.

Arthur Aylesworth as Fred Farrell doesn't get anywhere near the number of laughs he should, nor does Charles Laite in the always funny effeminate type of masculine role. A different Fred Farrell would add greatly to the play's chances for success. Of the women, Ruth Hammond as Olive Hopkins gives the most creditable and clever per-

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ing to it in large numbers. Inci-dentally Fred hopes to win the girl he loves and down the objections

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